



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 1010

LCO No. 3947

03947_____PS_

Referred to Committee on Public Safety and Security

Introduced by:
(PS)

***AN ACT CONCERNING EXPOSURE TO INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND
EMERGENCY RESPONDERS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2009*) (a) As used in this
2 section:

3 (1) "Infectious disease" includes (A) infectious pulmonary
4 tuberculosis, (B) hepatitis A, (C) hepatitis B, (D) hepatitis C, (E) human
5 immunodeficiency virus ("HIV"), including acquired
6 immunodeficiency syndrome ("AIDS"), (F) diphtheria, (G) pandemic
7 flu, (H) methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus, ("MRSA"), (I)
8 hemorrhagic fevers, (J) meningococcal disease, (K) plague, and (L)
9 rabies;

10 (2) "Exposure" means a percutaneous or mucous membrane
11 exposure of an individual to the blood, semen, vaginal secretions, or
12 spinal, synovial, pleural, peritoneal, pericardial or amniotic fluid of
13 another person;

14 (3) "Patient" means a person, whether alive or dead, who has been

15 treated, handled or transported for medical care by an emergency
16 services member;

17 (4) "Emergency services member" means any sworn member of the
18 Division of State Police within the Department of Public Safety, sworn
19 member of an organized local police department, member of a paid or
20 volunteer fire department, emergency medical technician, ambulance
21 driver, or paramedic as defined in section 19a-175 of the general
22 statutes, when acting in an official capacity;

23 (5) "Emergency services organization" means the Division of State
24 Police within the Department of Public Safety, an organized local
25 police department, paid or volunteer fire department, ambulance
26 company or any organization whether public, private or voluntary
27 which offers transportation or treatment services to patients under
28 emergency conditions;

29 (6) "Hospital" has the same meaning as in section 19a-490 of the
30 general statutes; and

31 (7) "Designated officer" means the employee or volunteer of an
32 emergency services organization designated in accordance with
33 subsection (b) of this section.

34 (b) Each emergency services organization shall designate one
35 employee or volunteer to act as the designated officer to receive
36 notification of cases of possible exposure to infectious disease,
37 investigate cases of possible exposure, maintain hospital contact
38 information, request further information from hospitals and maintain
39 any records required under this section.

40 (c) Any hospital that diagnoses a transported patient as having an
41 infectious disease shall verbally notify the designated officer of the
42 emergency services organization that transported such patient no later
43 than forty-eight hours after making such a diagnosis, and shall make
44 such notification in writing not later than seventy-two hours after such

45 diagnosis. Such notification shall include, but not be limited to, the
46 name of the emergency services member who may have been exposed,
47 if known, the type of infectious disease and the appropriate medical
48 precautions and treatments which should be taken by the emergency
49 services member, provided the identity of the patient shall not be
50 disclosed in any such notification.

51 (d) Any hospital that determines that a patient, who died at or
52 before reaching such hospital and who was transported by an
53 emergency services member, had an infectious disease shall notify the
54 designated officer of such determination no later than forty-eight
55 hours after making such determination.

56 (e) (1) Any member of an emergency service organization who
57 believes that he or she may have been exposed to an infectious disease
58 through the member's contact with a patient transported by the
59 member shall report such possible exposure to the designated officer.
60 The designated officer shall immediately collect the facts surrounding
61 such incident of possible exposure and evaluate such facts to make a
62 determination of whether it would be reasonable to believe that the
63 member may have been exposed to an infectious disease. If the
64 designated officer determines that there may have been possible
65 exposure to an infectious disease, the designated officer shall submit a
66 written request to the hospital that received the patient requesting to
67 be notified of the results of any test performed on the patient to
68 determine the presence of an infectious disease. The request shall
69 include:

70 (A) The name, address and telephone number of the designated
71 officer submitting the request;

72 (B) The name of the designated officer's employer or, in the case of a
73 volunteer emergency services member, the entity for which the
74 designated officer volunteers, and the name and contact information of
75 the emergency service member who was possibly exposed to the
76 infectious disease; and

77 (C) The date, time, location and manner of the exposure.

78 (2) Such request shall be valid for ten days after it is made. If at the
79 end of such ten-day period no test has been performed to determine
80 the presence of an infectious disease, no diagnosis has been made or
81 the result of the test is negative, the hospital shall so notify the
82 designated officer who made the request. The notification shall not
83 include the name of the patient.

84 (3) Any hospital that receives a written request for notification shall
85 give an oral notification of the presence of an infectious disease or of a
86 confirmed positive test result, if known, to the designated officer no
87 later than forty-eight hours after a confirmed positive test result, and
88 shall send a written notification no later than three days after obtaining
89 such result. If an infectious disease is present or the test results are
90 confirmed positive, both the oral and written notification shall include
91 the name of the disease, its signs and symptoms, the date of exposure,
92 the incubation period, the mode of transmission of the disease, the
93 medical precautions necessary to prevent transmission to other
94 persons, and the appropriate prophylaxis, treatment and counseling
95 for the disease. Such notification shall not disclose the name of the
96 patient.

97 (4) If a designated officer makes a request pursuant to this
98 subsection and the information is not available from the hospital to
99 which the request is made because the patient has been transferred
100 from such hospital, the hospital shall assist the designated officer in
101 locating the patient and securing the requested information from the
102 hospital that treated or is treating the patient. If the patient has died,
103 the hospital shall give the emergency services member the name and
104 address of the Chief Medical Examiner or funeral director, as
105 applicable, who received the patient.

<p>This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:</p>
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Section 1	October 1, 2009	New section
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Statement of Purpose:

To require hospitals to notify emergency service organizations when a patient who was transported by such organization is diagnosed with an infectious disease, to permit a designated officer to request that in a case where exposure has occurred, to be informed if the hospital tests the patient and determines that the patient has an infectious disease.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]